



Anti-Bullying Policy

Adopted by the Governing Body: May 2016

Date Last Reviewed: March 2023

Next Review Date: March 2026

Signed: (Headteacher) **Signed:** (Chair of Governors)

The school's vision, **'We live, we laugh, we learn together...
*Living in God's love
Laughing in the joy of Christ's risen life
Learning as we walk together in faith'***

The school's values statement, **'Whatever you do, work at it with all you heart.'** Colossians 3:23

Our Aims

We aim to provide a secure and happy environment, based on Christian values, where everyone feels respected and cared for. We will encourage each child to achieve their potential by supporting them to become independent, motivated and confident learners through a stimulating and challenging curriculum.

We will help children to grow in self-esteem and self-discipline and develop a sense of pride in their learning, their school and the wider community.

The Aims of our Anti-Bullying Policy

- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents should have an understanding of what we consider to be bullying
- All governors, teaching and non-teaching staff should know what the school policy is on bullying and follow it when bullying is reported
- All pupils and parents should know what the school policy is on bullying and what they should do if bullying arises

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our pupils and staff. If bullying does occur, all pupils and staff should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is strongly encouraged to tell a member of staff.

Bullying is unacceptable in this school - as a school we take bullying seriously. Pupils, parents and staff should be assured that they will be supported if bullying is reported.

What is bullying?

A clear definition of what we mean by bullying can be difficult as it may sometimes be that a child of primary school age does not understand the need for appropriate behaviour. At Long Itchington C of E Academy, we define bullying as any behaviour which is deliberately harmful, often repeated over a period of time and which is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves from.

- Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person.
- Bullying can result in pain or distress to the victim.
- Bullying can be a one-off incident when the action is completely unprovoked and results in injury or distress, or may be a series of on-going incidents which take place over a period of time and leaves the victim feeling intimidated or anxious.
- Cyber-bullying is defined as the use of ICT by an individual or group in a way that is intended to upset others. Examples include abusing victims through the use of social websites, mobile phones, text messaging, photographs, video and email.

Bullying can be:

- Emotional being unfriendly over a period of time; tormenting
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence

- Racist racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments
- Verbal name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing

It is sometimes difficult to distinguish whether the incident is one of bullying or not. Children often have disagreements with their peers and we need to distinguish between such incidents and those which may be classed as bullying. When an incident is reported, staff will try to find out the full facts to help them decide whether it is a case of bullying or not. Unacceptable behaviour, which does not constitute bullying, will be dealt with in line with the School's Behaviour Policy.

Why is it important to respond to bullying?

Children and staff have the right to work in a safe and secure environment and to be treated with respect. Our school has a responsibility to respond promptly and effectively to issues of bullying. Our Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship Curriculum includes developing strategies to cope with bullying, both now and in the future. The School is also committed to promoting acceptable behaviour. Pupils who are bullying need to learn more acceptable ways of behaving.

Signs and Symptoms

A child may indicate by signs or behaviour that he or she is being bullied. Adults should be aware of these possible signs and they should investigate if a child:

- Is frightened walking to and from school
- Begs to be driven to school
- Changes their usual routine
- Is unwilling to go to school
- Begins truanting
- Becomes withdrawn, anxious or lacking in confidence
- Starts stammering
- Attempts or threatens suicide, self-harming or runs away
- Cries themselves to sleep at night or has nightmares
- Feels ill in the morning
- Begins to wet the bed at night
- Begins to do poorly in school work
- Comes home with clothes torn or possessions damaged or "missing"
- Asks for money or starts stealing money (to pay bully)
- Has dinner or other monies continually 'lost'
- Has unexplained cuts or bruises
- Comes home hungry (money/lunch has been stolen)
- Becomes aggressive, disruptive or unreasonable
- Is bullying other children or siblings
- Stops eating
- Is frightened to say what's wrong
- Gives improbable excuses for any of the above

These signs and behaviours could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

Procedures for Incidents Involving Children

- Any incidents of suspected bullying should be reported to the **class teacher** in the first instance (either by parents or a member of staff), who will gather evidence and decide whether the incident is a matter to be dealt with in line with the Anti-Bullying Policy or the Behaviour Policy
- If the class teacher confirms that it is a case of bullying, they will speak to the 'bully' and inform them that the bullying must be stopped immediately. The Class Teacher will also tell the 'victim' that they must tell a member of staff straight away if it doesn't stop so that we can take further action.
- In cases of serious bullying the class teacher will inform the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher who will decide whether parents are to be informed.
- If bullying incidents continue, this should be reported to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher either by a parent or the class teacher.
- The Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher will record any further incidents in the School's Behaviour Record. Parents will

be invited to come into school to discuss the situation and to decide on appropriate strategies for dealing with the unacceptable behaviour.

- If parents are not satisfied with the way in which any incidents have been followed they should speak to the Head of School, in the first instance. If they are still not happy they should follow the School's Complaints Policy which is available on the school website.

Strategies for Preventing Further Incidents

The following strategies may be used and each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not occur:

- The bully (bullies) will be asked to genuinely apologise. If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
- This may be followed up using the 'no-blame' approach, whereby the 'bully' and 'victim' are supported by their peers. The 'bully' is encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour through this approach.
- The 'bully' may go 'On Report' for a fixed period of time, in consultation with their parents. The Report Card is completed at the end of each session and sent home for parents to see and comment on their child's behaviour.
- Outside agencies may be consulted, eg SEN SupportEd, Educational Psychologist, if further advice and support is necessary.
- Very serious breaches of this policy or the Behaviour Policy may result in a Fixed Term suspension or Permanent Exclusion. Local Authority Guidelines will be followed in this event.

Prevention

The School uses a variety of methods for helping children to prevent bullying. These include:

- Writing a set of school rules
- Writing stories or poems or drawing pictures or posters about bullying
- Reading stories about bullying or having them read to a class or in Assembly, followed by discussion
- Making up role-play scenarios to practise assertiveness skills
- Having discussions about bullying and why it matters
- Developing personal and social skills through the SEAL Project (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning)
- Explicit teaching of online safety

Helpful Organisations

Childline	www.childline.org.uk	Tel: 0800 1111
Advisory Centre for Education (ACE)	www.ace-ed.org.uk	
KIDSCAPE	www.kidscape.org.uk	Tel: 020 7730 3300
Internet Matters	www.internetmatters.org	
Online safety support for professionals	www.saferinternet.org.uk	

“Together we're buddies not bullies.”